Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 010971
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R 140525Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO 7TH COAST GUARD DISTRICT MIAMI

S E C R E T STATE 010971

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT HAVANA 0041, SENT SECSTATE 09 JAN:

QUOTE S E C R E T HAVANA 0041

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI PINS SNAR CU
SUBJECT: COAST GUARD EXCHANGE

1. USINT, JANUARY 7, RECEIVED MINREX NOTE NUMBER 16 DATED JANUARY 6, PROVIDING PROPOSED AGENDA FOR JANUARY 16-19 COAST GUARD-BORDER GUARD TALKS IN HAVANA. CUBAN AGENDA INCLUDES SOME SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO AGENDA PROPOSED BY US (STATE 272687). CUBAN-SUGGESTED AGENDA IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, AND EXPLORATION OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION, WITH REGARD TO:

-- OPERATIONS FOR SUPPRESSION AND PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL NARCOTICS TRAFFIC (COMMENT: NEW CUBAN PROPOSAL);
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PAGE 02 STATE 010971

AA TOURIST OR SPORT SEA CRUISES (COMMENT: NEW CUBAN PROPOSAL);

-- PREVENTION OR SUPPRESSION OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA (COMMENT: NEW CUBAN PROPOSAL).

3. CLARIFICATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES IN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

THE VICINITY OF BOTH COUNTRIES (COMMENT: US PROPOSAL REFERRED ONLY TO OPERATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF CUBA).

4. DISCUSSION OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY EACH SIDE SHOULD IT TEMPORARILY DETAIN VESSELS OF THE OTHER SIDE, OR SHOULD A VESSEL OF OTHER SIDE HAVE TO ENTER PORT BECAUSE OF FORCE MAJEURE)ARRIBO FORZOSO). (COMMENT: ENTRY UNDER FORCE MAJEURE CLAUSE NEWLY ADDED BY CUBANS.)

5. EXPLORATION OF POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS IN WATERS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA, BEYOND THE MARITIME LIMIT OVER WHICH EACH PARTY EXERCISES SOVEREIGN JURISDICTION. (COMMENT: CUBANS HAVE ADDED PHRASE REGARDING OPERATIONS BEYOND RESPECTIVE SOVEREIGN ZONES.)

6. BEGIN COMMENT: SUGGESTED ADDITIONS AND CHANGES BEAR OUT DESIRE OF CUBAN SIDE TO FOCUS DISCUSSION ON SUPPRESSION OF CUBAN EXILE TERRORISTS. BORDER BUARD CHIEF COL. PEDRO RODRIGUEZ PERALTA TOLD USINT OFFICERS, JANUARY 6 (SEPTEL), THAT FUNDAMENTAL CUBAN INTEREST IN COAST GUARD TALKS (WHICH WERE "APPROVED BY POLITBURO") IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO "STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM". IN ADDITION TO ITEM SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISM, RODRIGUEZ PERALTA SAID THAT TOPIC RELATING TO "TOURIST OR SPORT SEA CRUISES" WAS INTENDED TO RAISE ISSUE OF PROTECTING RECENTLY RENEWED CRUISE SHIP TRAFFIC FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS AND SABOTAGE WHILE AT SEA. WITH REGARD TO NARCOTICS PROPOSAL, WE UNDERSTAND THAT CUBANS HAVE ALSO

OFFERED NARCOTICS INFORMATION TO VENEZUELANS RELATING TO INVOLVEMENT OF CUBAN EXILE TERRORISTS IN DRUG TRADE.

7. CUBAN-PROPOSED ITEM RELATED TO OPERATIONS BEYOND SOVEREIGN LIMITES MAY REFER INTER ALIA TO CUBAN PURSUIT OF REFUGEES FLEEING CUBA BY BOAT. RODRIGUEZ PERALTA, JANUARY 6, MENTIONED SUCH INCIDENTS, CLAIMING THEY ARE SOMETIMES ACCOMPANIED BY MURDERS OF BORDER GUARDS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS.

8. WITH REGARD TO SUGGESTION ON FORCE MAJEURE LANDINGS. WE BELIEVE THIS ADDRESSES PREOCCUPATIONS THAT CUBANS HAVE ABOUT PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IF THEIR OWN FISHERMEN ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS OPERATING OFF US. END COMMENT

9. ACTION REQUESTED: DUE TO HEAVY FOCUS OF CUBANS ON TERRORIST ISSUE, AND THEIR APPARENT DESIRE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF ANTI-TERRORIST INFORMATION EXCHANGE WITH THE USG AS WELL AS JOINT OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES, AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF DELEGATION (PERHAPS WILLIS) SHOULD BE WELL-BRIEFED AND PREPARED TO RESPOND ON THIS MATTER. OUR OWN PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO STRIKE POSITIVE TONE AND TO INDICATE TO CUBANS THAT WE REMAIN INTERESTED IN COOPERATION IN THIS AREA. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, ADD QUALIFICATION THAT CURRENT TALKS ARE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

PRIMARILY EXPLORATORY. WE WOULD SUGGEST SAYING TO CUBANS THAT WE WELCOME ANY AND ALL CONCRETE CUBAN SUGGESTIONS FOR OPERATING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE PROCEDURES, AS WELL AS ANY INFORMATION THEY MAY WISH TO PROVIDE. DEFINITIVE RESPONSES FROM US SIDE ON PROCEDURES WILL HAVE TO AWAIT CONSULTATION AMONG MULTIPLE, OPERATIONALLY-INVOLVED WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF COMPLICATED POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL ISSUES INVOLVED. WE WOULD ADD THAT DEPARTMENT, THROUGH RESPECTIVE INTERESTS SECTIONS, WILL REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH CUBANS REGARDING SHARING OF INFORMATION ON TERRORIST- RELATED ACTIVITY, AS REQUIRED. WE WOULD ALSO SUGGEST ON LESS CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, FOR EXAMPLE, INFORMATION SHARING REGARDING DRUG ENFORCEMENT (OR ANTI-HIJACKING EFFORTS - NOT MENTIONED BY CUBANS) THAT FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US AND CUBAN SPECIALISTS ON THESE MATTERS MIGHT

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BE USEFUL - PRESUMING INTERESTED USG AGENCIES AGREE. (FYI CUBANS HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS.) LANE UNQUOTE. VANCE

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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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Status: NATIVE
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Type: TE
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20 Mar 2014
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